

REMARKS

New claim 46 recites that the "upper end region of the column is upwardly open in the clamped position".

As the Examiner will note upon reviewing Fig. 2 and Fig. 5, the upper end region of the column is "upwardly open" in the clamped position, that is, when the plate is mounted on the column. By being upwardly open, the upper end region is free to receive additional items, such as the beverage container 34.

This feature is not shown in, or suggested by U.S. Patent No. 5,772,050 to Shih, in which the upper end region of the column is closed by the clamping element 40 itself. Nor is this feature shown in, or suggested by, U.S. Patent No. 2,372,073 to Flournoy, in which the upper end of the column 7 is also closed by the clamping element 4 itself.

Applicant's claimed invention enables a user to hold additional items on the column itself, and not merely on the plate.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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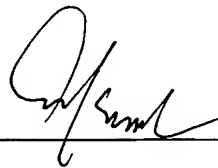
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